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Washington, D.C.—U.S. Congressman Mike Pence delivered the following speech on the floor of the U.S. House today in support of the bipartisan Budget Control Act of 2011:

"This is a challenging time in the life of our country. Our economy is struggling. Millions are out of work, and now with a more than a \$14 trillion national debt, America's on the verge of having its debts exceed our statutory borrowing limit.

"Now, I recognize if you owe debts pay debts. Congress has an obligation to defend the full faith and credit of the United States. But this Congress also has an obligation to keep faith with this and future generations of Americans by restoring fiscal responsibility and discipline to our national treasury.

"The bipartisan Budget Control Act that we will consider today will make it possible for the nation's bills to be paid with no new taxes, dollar-for-dollar cuts in spending for every increase in the debt ceiling, and it will give the American people a fighting chance to consider a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

"Now, let me be clear, the Budget Control Act is not so much a good deal as it is a good start. I really believe this bipartisan compromise is a modest but meaningful step in the direction of fiscal discipline and reform and I welcome it.

"Now, while this bill doesn't go nearly far enough, it does move us in the right direction.

"You know, leadership means knowing when to say 'yes' and knowing when to say 'no.' I believe the time has come to get something done so this Congress can move our national government back in the direction of fiscal responsibility and reform and begin to advance policies that will put Americans back to work.

"Last thought: There's a lot of credit-taking on a day like today. A lot of bipartisanship back-patting, as we say.

"But let me say from my heart: this day where we see the ship of state turning ever so slightly toward that lodestar of fiscal responsibility, this day does not belong so much to any one political leader, to any one political party or to any one branch of government. This day belongs to the American people who have stood, who have clamored, who have come to town halls, who have demanded that this government live within their means and said, 'enough is enough.' This is your day."

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